

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed on October 5, 2004. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are pending and claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been amended herein. Claim 5 was indicated as allowable subject matter and has been canceled. The allowable subject matter of claim 5 was added to claim 1. No new matter has been added. Entry and consideration of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims & Specification

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 have been amended to correct minor informalities and insufficient antecedent basis. Support for the amendments to the claims is described in the specification beginning on page 4, and shown in the figures.

The specification was amended throughout to correct minor informalities indicated by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Simone (UK '083). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include indicated allowable subject matter that each column has an associated orifice on the top flaps for insertion of a reinforcement member in the columns. It is Applicant's contention that claim 1 of the present invention is not anticipated

by Simone. By reason of their dependency on independent claim 1, the Applicant asserts that claims 2-4, 8 and 10 are also patentable over Simone. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

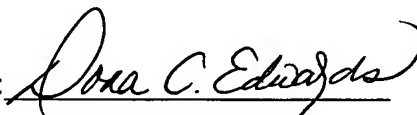
In view of the amendments to the claims 1-4 and 6-10 and the specification made herein and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. The application should now be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide indication that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner in the next formal communication.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

This Response to Office Action is being timely filed. In the event that any other extensions and/or fees are required for the entry of this Response, the Patent and Trademark Office is specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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